

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 EB-08 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 IO-13 SY-05 PRS-01 NEA-10 H-01 SS-15

NSC-05 DODE-00 /084 W

-----023371 281553Z /44-40

R 280801Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6561

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 1560

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: MZ, RH, SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN INSURANCE COMPANY REQUESTS INFORMATION
ON MOZAMBIQUE PLANE CRASH

REF: (A) MAPUTO 59 (B) MAPUTO 64

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A LETTER (FORWARDED FROM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG) FROM PHOENIX INSURANCE COMPANY OF SOUTH AFRICA REQUESTING INFORMATION ON THE CRASH IN MOZAMBIQUE OF SOUTH AFRICAN REGISTERED CESSNA 172. LETTER STATES THAT INFORMATION IS BEING REQUESTED IN ORDER TO PROCESS INSURANCE CLAIM OF MR. J. J. QBLOCH WHO WAS KILLED IN CRASH. LETTER FURTHER EXPLAINS THAT INSURANCE COMPANY IS SEEKING USG ASSISTANCE BECAUSE IT HAS LEARNED THAT MR. MIRON MARKUS, WHO WAS FLYING PLANE, "APPROACHED" EMBASSY MAPUTO "AND GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ACCIDENT."

2. BACKGROUND ON MARKUS: MIRON MARKUS IS AN ISRAELI CITIZEN WHO HAS BEEN DETAINED BY MMOZAMBIQUE AUTHORITIES SINCE THE PLANE HE WAS FLYING CRASHED IN MOZAMBIQUE ON SEPTEMBER 4, 1976. ALTHOUGH NO CHARGES HAVE EVER BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST MARKUS, HE IS SUSPECTED OF BEING A
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MERCENARY. ON JANUARY 17, 1977 MARKUS ESCAPED FROM HIS PLACE OF IMPRISONMENT AND INADVERTENTLY WANDERED INTO THE EMBASSY, WHERE HE ASKED VARIOUSLY FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE US, ASSISTANCE IN ESCAPING TO RHODESIA OR AID IN RETURNING TO ISRAEL. AFTER REVIEWING CASE, EMBASSY DECIDED THAT MARKUS DID NOT QUALIFY FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN US AND THAT GIVING HIM ANY TYPE OF ASSISTANCE

WOULD SERIOUSLY HARM US-MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS. EMBASSY SUGGESTED THAT HE TURN HIMSELF IN TO LOCAL UNHCR REP OR MOZAMBIQUE FOREIGN MINISTRY. MARKUS DID LATTER. FULL DETAILS OF CASE ARE CONTAINED IN MAPUTO 59 AND 64 (1977).

3. RECOMMENDATION: ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THAT OUR UNCOOPERATIVENESS MAY CAUSE INSURANCE CLAIMEE PROBLEMS, WE DO NOT THINK EMBASSY SHOULD RELEASE INFORMATION ON CRASH OR OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH MARKUS TO PHONIX INSURANCE. FIRST, ANY INFORMATIO WE GIVE PHOENIX ABOUT THE CRASH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BECOME PUBLIC AND WOULD SOON INVOLVE US IN AN ISSUE WHICH IS (FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW) BEST LEFT QUIETLY ALONE. SECOND, WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER INFORMATION MARKUS GAVE THE EMBASSY ABOUT THE CRASH IS TRUE OR FALSE. FOR EXAMPLE, MOZAMBICANS ALLEGED THAT BLOCK AND MARKUS WERE MERCENARIES AND THAT THEIR PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN WHILE ON A RECONNAISSANCE MISSION FOR THE RHODESIAN ARMY. MARKUS CONTENTED THAT HE WAS ON A PRIVATE FLIGHT WHEN BAD WEATHER FORCED HIM TO STRAY OFF COURSE INTO MOZAMBIQUE. HE FURTHER CLAIMED THAT BLOCK WAS KILLED AND HE (MARKUS) WAS WOUNDED BY MOZAMBICAN SOLDIERS AFTER THEIR PLANE LANDED.

4. REQUEST: EMBASSY PLANS TO INFORM PHONEIX INSURANCE THAT ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN PASSED ON TO EMBASSY BY MARKUS ABOUT THE CRASH AND DEATH OF BLOCK
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CANNNOT BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE IN THIS ACTION, AS WELL AS ANY SUGGESTIONS ABOUT SPECIFIC LANGUAGE WHICH DEPARTMENT THINKS EMBASSY LETTER SHOULD CONTAIN.
DEPREE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSURANCE, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MAPUTO01560
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770483-0531
Format: TEL
From: MAPUTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771212/aaaaajrs.tel
Line Count: 99
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MAPUTO 59, 77 MAPUTO 64
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 121643
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: EAIR, MZ, RH, SF, PHOENIX INSURANCE CO, (MARKUS, MIRON)
To: STATE PRETORIA MULTIPLE
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